

*Office Memorandum* **CONFIDENTIAL** UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 4 November 1952

FROM : Chief, Sovmat Staff, OO

SUBJECT: Requested Comment on Proposed Training Course

REFERENCE: Undated prospectus entitled "Basic Intelligence Course" forward with routing slip dated 31 October 1952 for comment.

1. The experience of the Sovmat Staff with the Basic Intelligence Course leads to the conclusion that it is too long. The course outlined in the current prospectus deprives the sponsoring office of its staff members for six weeks. A general tightening up of the proposed course could reduce this lost time by one-half without significant training loss. Time could be saved in many ways including those suggested below:

a. New staff members gain little, in proportion to the time spent, from the study of the U.S.S.R. and communism (Section III).

(1) It is recommended that the initial training be limited to principles, methods, and practices of intelligence plus training in intelligence and the national security.

(2) It is recommended further that the study of U.S.S.R. and communism be handled as a separate training project for personnel with initial experience in the agency. Such personnel could benefit materially from the presentation of this substance in a short series of seminars.

b. The time devoted to preparation of a major area study in this course is disproportionate. It is suggested that this training phase could be markedly curtailed since related, intensive work is required for preparation of weekly projects.

2. The Strategic Intelligence School Manual is used extensively in this course. While excellent, the manual is slanted toward the training of Military attaches.

a. A thorough modification of this manual, or its replacement by a text developed for CIA training, could save considerable training time and improve instruction by the insertion of some relevant, and the suppression of a considerable quantity of less relevant matter.

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Enclosure:  
Basic Intelligence Course

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